

University of Massachusetts Medical School

eScholarship@UMMS

Community Engagement and Research
Symposia

2016 Community Engagement and Research
Symposium

Mar 25th, 8:00 AM

Speaker Biographies: 2016 Community Engagement and Research Symposium

Community Engagement and Research Symposium

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium



Part of the [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](#), [Community-Based Research Commons](#), [Community Health and Preventive Medicine Commons](#), and the [Translational Medical Research Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Community Engagement and Research Symposium. (2016). Speaker Biographies: 2016 Community Engagement and Research Symposium. Community Engagement and Research Symposia. <https://doi.org/10.13028/hjtv-0495>. Retrieved from https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium/2016/program/4

Creative Commons License



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 License](#). This material is brought to you by eScholarship@UMMS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Community Engagement and Research Symposia by an authorized administrator of eScholarship@UMMS. For more information, please contact Lisa.Palmer@umassmed.edu.

5th Annual Community Engagement and Research Symposium

Friday, March 25, 2016; 8:00am - 4:00pm

Albert Sherman Center

University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA

Presenter Biographies

Keynote

Carolyn M Jenkins, DrPH, MSN, RD, LD, FAAN is the Ann Darlington Edwards Endowed Chair in Nursing and a Professor at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. She received her Master of Science in Nursing from the Medical University of South Carolina, a Master of Science in Nutrition from the University of Georgia and her Doctor of Public Health from the University of South Carolina. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, a member of Sigma Theta Tau, and currently chairs the Outreach Council of the state legislated Diabetes Initiative of South Carolina. Her 30-year career has been on working with communities throughout South Carolina to improve health outcomes related to diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, cardiovascular disease and their complications, especially for the state's underserved African Americans. The focus of her work is reducing racial disparities, and creating effective academic community partnerships.

Dr. Jenkins has been at the Medical University since 1979 and is involved in undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs in the College of Nursing, and has a joint appointment with the College of Graduate Studies. Major initiatives for Dr. Jenkins are the statewide South Carolina Diabetes Initiative where she served as the Director of Outreach and more recently, she is working with H3 Africa Stroke Investigative Research and Education Network to explore the genomic factors in stroke where she serves as a co-investigator and coordinator for community engagement for an NIH funded research project. She is also the Director of the Center for Community Health Partnerships and is Co-Director of Community Engagement for the South Carolina Translational Research Institute (SCTR), the NIH Clinical and Translational Research Award at the Medical University of South Carolina. Much of her research and practice initiatives incorporate a three-pronged approach of care delivery, research, and education in community driven models of care. Each involves players from the highest levels of state or local government to professionals and students to grass roots community residents. She has served as Director of a nurse managed interdisciplinary health clinic, an advanced practice nurse certified in advanced diabetes management, and a certified diabetes educator.

She has leveraged more than 12 million dollars to improve community health. In collaboration with others, she has co-led negotiations for annual funding of the Diabetes Initiative by the South Carolina State Legislature and has influenced the passage of a statewide bill that establishes a minimal level of care for persons with diabetes and provides reimbursement for diabetes education.

Current and future research efforts are focused on further improvements in diabetes, hypertension, stroke, and cardiovascular disease care and control, and identifying the contributions of multifactorial interventions in eliminating health disparities and in creating health equity, especially in rural and African American populations.

Improving community health through an innovative collaboration between academics and practitioners through the Worcester Academic Health Department

Marianne Sarkis, PhD. is an applied medical anthropologist and health researcher who focuses on African-born health experiences in the US. While most of her work has centered on women's reproductive health and experiences, her recent research has expanded to include structural inequalities, health disparities, and access to medical services for all African-born immigrants and refugees.

Dr. Sarkis teaches courses mostly related to gender and health, community-based health research, Social Network Analysis, and refugee and immigrant health.

Her current participatory community-based health research uses storytelling for health education and trust building. She is the co-chair of Akwaaba Free Clinic in Worcester, and is a president of the board of UHA for Health, Inc. a non-profit organization that seeks to improve the lives of the marginalized African population both in Worcester and in Kenya through health education and promotion, research, screening and referral.

Cassandra Andersen is the Regional Behavioral Health Programs Coordinator and has been with the City of Worcester, Massachusetts, Division of Public Health for over 3 years. Before joining the City of Worcester she worked in diverse settings in the Worcester community including management of youth programming, providing technical assistance on developing healthy communities, and ensuring community engagement in community-based participatory research. She is responsible for overseeing the implementation of grants and initiatives to improve mental health and reduce substance misuse across the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance. Engaging academic partners and advising student research is an essential component of her work. Cassandra received her B.S. from WPI in Environmental Policy and Development.

Zach Dyer, MPH, is the Deputy Director for the City of Worcester, Massachusetts, Division of Public Health and the co-chair of the Community Health Network Area 8 (CHNA-8) Healthy Greater Worcester. Formerly the Chief of Community Health for Worcester, he is responsible for implementing the Community Health Improvement Plan, spearheaded the 2015 Greater Worcester Community Health Assessment, and is leading the planning efforts for the 2016 Community Health Improvement Plan. He sits on the Worcester Partnership for Racial & Ethnic Health Equity, the Worcester Food Policy Council, and broadly oversees the Division's Community Health, Emergency Preparedness, Nursing, and Environmental Health programs. Zach received his B.A. from Columbia University and his MPH in Maternal & Child Health from Boston University.

Monica Escobar Lowell is Vice President of Community Relations at UMass Memorial Health Care, responsible for developing community health improvement efforts. Under the hospital's Community Benefits program, she spearheaded the Asthma Home Visiting Pilot Program and is responsible for managing the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund asthma partnership.

Linda Larrivee, Ph.D. Dean, School of Education, Health, and Natural Sciences; Dr. Larrivee is Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Studies and Practice at Worcester State University, which identifies Worcester State University expertise and resources to address health-related issues in Worcester and beyond. The Center focuses on public health systems, workforce development, and community partnerships on- and off-campus. In partnership with Worcester's Division of Public Health (WDPH), Worcester State University is working to bridge academic scholarship with public health practice, specifically by providing resources to further the goals of Worcester's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Faculty and students work in teams focusing on one of the five CHIP domains.

Kolawole A. Akindele, JD, MS, is Senior Director for Community & Government Relations at University of Massachusetts Medical School. Immediately prior to joining UMMS, Akindele was the community relations

manager at Hartford Hospital. From 2010 to 2013, he served as a community relations associate in the Office of Community and Government Relations at UMMS. Akindele earned his undergraduate degree from UMass Boston and his law degree from Northeastern University School of Law. He also earned a master's in health informatics and management and a certificate in health policy from UMass Lowell. He has been involved with many local community organizations, including the American Red Cross, Veteran's Inc., the Worcester County Bar Association and the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

Addressing gaps to promote co-learning and bidirectional capacity building in community engaged research: Challenges and untapped opportunities

Stephenie C. Lemon, Ph.D., M.S. is Professor of Medicine in the Division of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine, Department of Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Worcester. She is an epidemiologist and applied public health researcher whose work focuses on chronic disease prevention, particularly through reducing the obesity epidemic. Her work includes three areas: behavioral epidemiology, intervention and implementation science and policy research with an emphasis on promoting health equity. Much of her work uses a community engaged approach and aims to improve health equity. She has had continuous research funding from the NIH and the CDC as PI since 2004 and has additionally served as co-investigator on numerous federal studies. Dr. Lemon has published over 80 articles in leading journals. She serves as Co-director of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Community Engagement component, which is leading innovations across the five UMass campuses to enhance the capacity of faculty, trainees and community partners to participate in community engaged research. She also serves as the Co-Director of the UMass Worcester Prevention Research Center, funded by the CDC.

Dr. Linda Silka is a social and community psychologist by training, with much of her work focusing on building community-university research partnerships. She has several decades of experience in leading community-university research partnerships on environmental, economic development, and environmental health issues. Dr. Silka was the former Director of the University of Maine's Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and is now Senior Fellow at the University of Maine's George Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions. Prior to moving to the University of Maine, Dr. Silka was a faculty member for three decades at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, where she directed the Center for Family, Work, Community, served as the Special Assistant to the Provost for Community Outreach and Partnerships, and was Professor of Regional Economic and Social Development. Recent research partnerships she has facilitated include the NIEHS-funded Southeast Asian Environmental Justice Partnership and the New Ventures Partnership, the HUD-funded Community Outreach Partnership Center and Diverse Healthy Homes Initiative, and the Center for Immigrant and Refugee Community Leadership and Empowerment. Silka has written extensively on the challenges and opportunities of building research partnerships with diverse and has consulted internationally on how to build community-university research partnerships.

Silka is also a member of SSI's Knowledge-to-Action (K \leftrightarrow A) Collaborative, a group that is studying how to better align university research with community needs. The K \leftrightarrow A Collaborative is investigating ways to overcome the barriers between knowledge and action and build partnerships between Maine's academic institutions and diverse stakeholders in order to better solve sustainability challenges throughout the state.

In addition to her teaching and research duties, Silka is a Member and Fellow of both the American Psychological Association and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. She has previously served as the Director of the Center for Family, Work, and Community at the University of Massachusetts. Silka has been published in multiple peer-reviewed publications including the Journal of the New England Board of Higher Education, Australasian Journal of Community Engagement, and Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement.

Silka's research has been funded in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Housing and Urban Development, National Science Foundation, National Park Service, and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Lauren Powell, BS is a PhD candidate in the Clinical and Population Health Research program at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Under the guided mentorship of Stephenie Lemon, Ph.D., Milagros Rosal, Ph.D., and Jeroan Allison, M.D., MS, her research focuses on minority health disparities and the effects of racism on health, the social determinants of health, and methods to improve the participation and experiences of African-Americans and Latinos in clinical research studies. Lauren graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana in 2006 where she majored in Biochemistry, with a double minor in Biology and Mathematics.

Following the completion of her undergraduate degree, she coordinated clinical research studies in some of the most prestigious medical institutions in the country including: the Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine and Public Health, the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, and the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health. She is an active member of the Worcester community, serving as a member of the Worcester Partnership for Racial and Ethnic Health Equity and volunteering with Mosaic Cultural Complex, an organization that provides health screenings and education to men of color in African American and Latino barbershops.

Lauren served as a *2013-2014 Boston Albert Schweitzer Fellow* and was awarded her first grant in Fall 2013 from the *National Institutes of Minority Health and Health Disparities* to investigate methods of improving research literacy in underserved populations. She was a recipient of the *2013-2014 Hope Scholarship* from the Harvard School of Medicine's Diversity and Community Partnership's Biomedical Science Careers Program. Upon completion of her doctoral degree, Lauren aspires to secure a position within a federal government agency that will position her to have a broad impact on the elimination of health inequities.

Phillip Granberry is a social demographer who specializes in unauthorized immigration. He worked with various community-based organizations assisting recently arrived U.S. immigrants before earning a PhD in Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts Boston in 2007. His dissertation, "The Formation and Effects of Social Capital among Mexican Immigrants," examined how unauthorized Mexican immigrants accumulate social capital in the United States, and how it helps explain both their economic and health outcomes.

Granberry currently is working on research with newly collected data from Brazilian and Dominican immigrants in the Metropolitan Boston area. He has published several articles on demographic and economic trends among Latinos in New England and the impact of welfare and immigration policy reform on Latinos in Massachusetts. He currently teaches economics, demography, and community development courses at the University of Massachusetts Boston and Bridgewater State College.

Granberry's interest in community development springs from his previous academic experience studying theology. He holds a MA in Theology and a MTS in Pastoral Studies from St. Meinrad School of Theology.

M. Marie Boone, MHS a Social Entrepreneur is the Co-founder/Vice President of Strategic Development of the Mosaic Cultural Complex a grassroots organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for vulnerable populations through providing high level services.

Ms. Boone has been serving the Worcester community for over 20 years. Over the years Ms. Boone has worked with some of the most vulnerable and high risk youth and families. Ms. Boone been actively involved in community engagement, education, organizing and mobilization. Ms. Boone is an experienced trainer; she has developed training curriculums, programs and facilitated sessions for barbers and community health workers

about evidence-based strategies for health promotion and disease prevention, using a train-the-trainer approach.

Over the last three years working with the CHEIR Mosaic has increased its Research Literacy and readiness and have partnered with the Medical School on several research projects in several roles. Specifically, in 2013 Mosaic partnered in the SCRIPTT project and co-lead in the development of training, tools and assessments designed to deliver culturally appropriate delivery of informed consent.

As a Community PI, Ms. Boone currently Co-leads the Special Population Resource Center (SPRC). Through this role she bridges academia with community, collaborates in many community initiatives, and fosters community engaged research. A common thread through all of her work is her passion for fostering social justice and health equity.

Mosaic has become a premier organization in the state of Massachusetts serving men of color and addressing social determinants of health and the impact of racism on the inequities facing men of color. Over the last several years has received a great deal of recognition for its work which includes but isn't limited to the following:

- In 2009 The State Workforce Investment Board's report on Performance and Accountability, **sited Mosaic as a Best Practice working with Vulnerable Populations:** (Report completed by the Commonwealth Corporation)
- In 2011 Mosaic's Barbershop Health Network was highlighted in a recent article published in the **American Psychiatric Association magazine** (<http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/content/46/14/9.full>).
- In 2011 Brenda Jenkins, Mosaic Co-founder received **The American Red Cross Community Hero award** (<http://youtube/XphBAKXXreA>).
- In June 2012 Mosaic's Community Health Workers received **Congressional Citations** from both former Senator John Kerry and Congressman Mc Govern for their work around health disparities.
- In 2014 Mosaic Co-Founder's Marie Boone and Brenda Jenkins received the inaugural **Courage Award from Safe Homes for Social Justice.**

Community Research Innovative Scholars Program (CRISP) Panel Discussion

Lorraine S. Cordeiro, Ph.D., M.P.H., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Nutrition at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dr. Cordeiro was born and raised on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. She received her Ph.D. in Nutrition Science and Policy from Tufts University; M.P.H. in International Health and Development from Tulane University; and B.A. in Development Studies/Biology from Mount Holyoke College. She is a community-engaged scholar that studies the associations between food security, high risk health behaviors, and hunger among adolescents and women in multiple social and cultural contexts. She validates food security assessment tools within vulnerable populations, with emphasis on refugee and immigrant communities. Dr.

Cordeiro has worked extensively on behalf of women and children in underserved populations – from Lowell, Massachusetts to Tanzania, Bangladesh and Cambodia. Her emerging research will leverage adolescence as an integral component of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Life Course Model. The MCH discourse currently focuses on pre- and post-natal care, fetal development, infancy and early childhood, with limited attention on adolescence as a critical life stage. Dr. Cordeiro is the recipient of several distinguished awards and fellowships including the Tufts University Presidential Award for Citizenship and Public Service, the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, UMass Amherst Distinguished Teaching Award, Center for Research on Families Faculty Scholar, and the UMass Civic Engagement and Service Learning Faculty Fellow. She is currently a Community Research Innovative Scholar at the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Center for Clinical and Translational Science.

Christopher B. Denning, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Special Education in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Massachusetts-Boston (UMB). His work focuses on intervention research to support academic, social skill and motor development for young children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The CRISP Grant work will involve the development and implementation of a physical activity program for young children with ASD in the Quincy Public Schools. Of particular interest are the intervention's effects on children's motor development, physical activity levels and classroom engagement; the sustainability of the program at the school and classroom level; and teacher input on adaptations to support classroom implementation.

Rachel Kulick is in Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Her research – using participatory action research, ethnography, and community based evaluation – focuses on how social justice movements attempt to prefigure or “be the change” in their organizational structures, practices, and values. She is currently leading a community based project, UMass Dartmouth Grows with a team of students, faculty, and community groups to research and develop edible landscapes that address the physical, social, cultural, geographic, political and economic factors associated with food injustices. She recently authored the articles, “What do you see that I cannot? Peer Facilitations of Difference and Conflict in the Collective Production of Independent Youth Media” in *Interface: a journal for and about social movements* (2014); “Making Media for Themselves: Strategic Dilemmas of Prefigurative Work in Independent Media Outlets” in *Social Movement Studies*(2014), and “Participatory Action Research: A Youth Centered Approach to Planning for a Citywide Youth Media Center” in *Sage Research Methods Cases* (2014).

Herpreet Thind, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Public Health in the Department of Community Health and Sustainability at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. She has degrees in clinical medicine and public health. Her research interests include health behavior change interventions for obesity and chronic diseases including diabetes. This CRISP award will be utilized to conduct formative research that will help to develop a tailored community based yoga intervention for adults with overweight and obesity. This project will specifically target minority populations who have high rates of obesity, but tend to be underrepresented in research.

Chronic pain case management in opioid patients; Improving risk management and shifting prescriber behavior in a rural community health center

Andy Lowe. B.S. is the Director of Program Management Resources at Outer Cape Health Services, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving the Lower and Outer Cape Cod region, where he oversees federal and state grants management and compliance and staffs the OCHS Research Committee. Before coming to OCHS, Mr. Lowe was Associate Principal Investigator for community-based research projects in the University of Vermont Center for Clinical and Translational Science. Mr. Lowe also previously worked in the Vermont Agency of Human Services, Vermont State Hospital, and Vermont Department of Mental Health in roles including Project Manager for Health Information Technology and Associate Chief Information Officer. He has also been an adjunct faculty instructor of technical communications at Champlain College, and is past president of the Vermont chapter of the Society for Technical Communications.

Barbara K. Prazak, MD, is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, and has led the OCHS medical provider staff for six years. She obtained her Medical Degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester and completed an internal medicine residency at Mount Auburn Hospital, Cambridge. She has practiced as a board certified internist since 1983 and marked her 25th year on the OCHS medical team in 2014. In June 2015 she was honored as Physician of the Year by the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers. She practices at all three of the OCHS health centers in Provincetown, Harwich and Wellfleet, and lives in Wellfleet with her family.

Ellen Dennehy is a Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C) at Outer Cape Health Services in Wellfleet, MA. She provides primary care to a complete spectrum of patients, and especially enjoys caring for families and children. Ms. Dennehy is also a member of the Electronic Medical Records and Care Coordination Teams, and serves as a preceptor for physician assistant students. Ms. Dennehy graduated Cum Laude from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and earned her BS degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Tina Rauch, BSN, RN has worked for Outer Cape Health Services for over 10 years. During that time she received her Bachelors of Science Degree in Nursing from UMASS Dartmouth. As Nurse Manager and Co-Site Director for the past three years Tina has concentrated on working closely with the clinical team to enhance the roles of Medical Assistants, as well as developing the RN approach to quality care. Tina's broad experience from her time with Outer Cape Health as well as being a native Cape Codder gives her a unique perspective to understanding the needs of the community as well as understanding the aspects of managing different departments of the health center.

Creative approaches to building community research partnerships: Resources and Collaborations

Robin A. Robinson is Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. She holds the PhD in Social Policy from Brandeis University and the PsyD - Doctor of Psychology from The George Washington University. Her research combines psychoanalytic theory and critical and feminist criminologies in the study of trauma, criminality, and the social control of women and girls. Her recent work extends the project to psychosocial analyses of literature and visual arts, and social histories of women and crime. Funded research is in areas of vicarious trauma and anti-violence workers, girls and social welfare systems, and youth relational violence, combining theory-building, empirical research, and community engagement.

In her international work she has been a Visiting Scholar at the University of Cambridge, Institute of Criminology, the Simon Visiting Professor at the University of Manchester (England) School of Law, and Visiting International Scholar at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. She is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow at the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research. Her work in all these positions has focused on women, girls, trauma, and violence, and social responses to them.

Caitlin Stover, Assistant Professor, is the Community Nursing Department Chair in the College of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Dr. Stover uses Community Based Participatory Research to explore health and healthcare disparities in vulnerable populations. She teaches across all program levels in the College and her favorite course to teach is Community Assessment, Program Planning and Evaluation. Her current work is focused on building the capacity of the Community Health Worker workforce in the Southcoast MA region.

Andrea Klimt is a cultural anthropologist (PhD 1992, Stanford) interested in the formation of urban spaces, ethnic communities and class trajectories in the contemporary U.S. Research interests have focused on transnational migration and the Portuguese diaspora. Most recently, she is exploring the ways in which photography of urban environments can connect student learning with community-based initiatives for social change.

Christina Cipriano, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Dr. Cipriano's research examines the relationship between educational contexts, micro classroom processes and psychosocial and academic outcomes across development. Dr. Cipriano received her Ph.D. in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College, and most recently completed her Post-Doctoral Training at Yale University.

Mary Hensel manages UMass Dartmouth's newly established Office of Research Development. The office builds research capacity by promoting collaborations, managing internal grants, disseminating funding opportunities and celebrating research achievements. In addition to six years' experience in research administration, Mary has over 25 years' experience in leadership fundraising, board and volunteer development and advancement communications. She has worked with diverse organizations including the University of Washington, the New York Philharmonic, Earthwatch Australia, The Trustees of Reservations and the American Cancer Society. A graduate of Williams College, she holds an MBA from University of Chicago Booth.

Regional Consortium of Community-Engaged researchers: Brainstorming for gerontology research opportunities

Dr. Lee is Associate Professor in the Department of Community Health Services, UMass Lowell. He has a PhD in Economics from the University of Wisconsin and has worked in the health care field for more than 40 years. He is former Vice President with Health Economics Research, one of the country's leading health policy "think tanks." He has also worked for Arthur D. Little, Abt Associates and at Blue Cross & Blue Shield; and served as Deputy Director of the Maine State Planning Office. Dr. Lee has also worked as a Senior Scientist on the research faculty at the Schneider Institute for Health Policy, within the Heller Graduate School at Brandeis University. He is a founder of DxCG, Inc., the Boston-based health informatics firm (now part of Verisk Health), that develops and markets the Diagnostic Cost Group risk adjustment model.

Karen Devereaux Melillo, Ph.D., A-GNP-C, FAANP, FGSA, is the Interim Dean and Professor, School of Nursing, College of Health Sciences. She has served as Director and Chair of the School of Nursing (2013-2014), Chair (2005-2013), and Coordinator of the Adult-Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Specialty (2013-2014) and Coordinator of the Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Specialty (1985-2005). She earned her Ph.D. from Brandeis University's Florence Heller School for the Advanced Study of Social Welfare in 1990, where her studies focused on aging, long-term care and health policy. She received her Master of Science Degree in Gerontological Nursing from the University of Lowell in 1978, which prepared her as a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner. In 1998, she was awarded the Francis Cabot Lowell Outstanding Alumni Award for the College of Health Professions at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. In 2009, she was selected as a Fellow in the Gerontological Society of America. She was also selected as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and for the Distinguished Alumni Award from Massachusetts Bay Community College, both in 2001. Since coming to the University in 1982, she has established an active research program on the utilization of Nurse Practitioners in institutional long-term care, for which she received the American College of Health Care Administrators *Long-Term Care Research Award*.

Her research has focused on health promotion, specifically physical fitness and exercise activity of older adults, as well as the application of a wandering technology device for older adults with Alzheimer's disease. She is Principal Investigator on a 3-year competing continuation funded study from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, Division of Nursing, Nursing Workforce Diversity (D19HP009221, 2012-2016; D19HP08221, 2008-2012) and from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities: Workforce Development grant (2007-2014), for the Bring Diversity to Nursing project, totaling over \$2M.

She was also Principal Investigator on a Mass. Department of Higher Education Nursing and Allied Health Grant, "Increasing Nurse Practitioner Preceptor and Faculty Capacity", 2014-2015. She served as Co-Investigator on a HRSA-funded Advanced Education in Nursing grant, "DNPs Caring for Underserved", with Co-Principal Investigators, Susan Houde, Ph.D. and Angela Nannini, Ph.D., (D09HP19005-01, 2010-2013) Advanced Education Nursing Grant, in the amount of \$732,044. She was a Co-Investigator with Jacqueline Dowling, Ph.D., PI, on a HRSA Workforce Diversity Equipment Grant, 2010-2011, "On the move for nursing's future: Bring diversity to

nursing mobile simulation laboratory”, \$299,980. She was a Co-Investigator on a 5-year, \$3.5M National Institutes of Health, NIOSH-funded study on “Health Disparities Among Healthcare Workers,” where she led the qualitative case study research effort in two nursing homes. She was Principal Investigator on the Mass. Department of Higher Education’s Nursing and Allied Health Initiative grant, “UMass Lowell/D’Youville Partnership in Establishing Dedicated Education Unit in a LTC Transitional Care Setting” (2011-2012).

Melillo has over 60 peer-reviewed publications. The second edition of Melillo, K.D. & Houde, S.C. (Eds.) *Geropsychiatric and Mental Health Nursing* (2011) received the 2011 AJN Book of the Year Award, placing first in two categories, mental health and gerontologic nursing. She is a manuscript reviewer for a number of journals, including *Geriatric Nursing*, and is an Editorial Advisory Board member for the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*. She is an abstract reviewer for the Gerontological Society of America, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Nationally, she has served as an Expert Panel member on the American Academy of Nursing/Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, Geropsychiatric Nursing Core Competency Workgroup and on the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing’s, Transitioning to Adult-Gerontology APRN Education: Ensuring the APRN Workforce is Prepared to Care for Older Adults, NP Expert Panel. She is active in a number of national professional associations and state task forces, and has served on local Boards, including D’Youville Life and Wellness Community. She is Past-President of the Eta Omega Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International. Melillo is nationally board-certified as an Adult-Gerontological Primary Care Nurse Practitioner through the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Dr. Deborah D’Avolio, PhD, BC-ACNP, ANP, has a strong background in Gerontological Research, with specific training and expertise in key research and practice areas. She has completed a two year, competitive John A. Hartford Foundation postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence. She holds an appointment as an Associate Professor, U Mass Lowell, School of Nursing and is a Faculty Nurse Scientist at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) where she has mentored several MGH Nursing Research Center Grant Awards.

Dr. D’Avolio, research and career have been dedicated to the unmet health care needs of inner city older adults and infusing geriatrics into interprofessional education. Dr. D’Avolio is a Scholar and Fellow in the National Academies of Practice and the Gerontological Society of America. Her leadership in gerontological nursing has been recognized internationally, she is the recipient of the Sigma Theta Tau International Award for Geriatric Nursing Leadership.